

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 559

By Cepicky

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the dedication of the J.B. Napier and Shirley Napier Memorial Bridge.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the General Assembly enacts legislation to commemorate the lives of distinguished individuals by naming highways and bridges to honor their service to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, two such exceptional Tennesseans were J.B. Napier and Shirley Napier of Maury County, distinguished public servants who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, J.B. Napier rendered sterling service as chair of the Conservation and Environment Committee of the House of Representatives during his fourteen-year tenure representing the 64th House District, and Shirley Napier, his beloved wife, served with acumen and alacrity as Clerk and Master for Maury County for twenty-three years; and

WHEREAS, born on May 14, 1928, J.B. Napier was the son of John Bunch Napier and Connie Crew Napier; he attended Maury County schools and was a graduate of Columbia Military Academy; and

WHEREAS, he briefly attended the University of Tennessee before joining the United States Marine Corps and serving as a weapons instructor during the Korean Conflict; after his military service, he joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C., where he served for several years; and

WHEREAS, after returning to Columbia, Mr. Napier became a highly successful businessman, operating Napier Bryant Service Station and later Southern Termite and Pest Control Company for many years in addition to operating his family farm, an officially designated Century Farm, where he raised Black Angus cattle, and various row crops; and

WHEREAS, an active part of his community and his profession, he served as chair of the Maury County Soil Conservation District, president of the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts, a board member and council member of the National Association of Conservation Districts, a member of the Tennessee Pest Control Licensing Board, and president of the Tennessee Pest Control Association; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated public servant, Mr. Napier was a member of the Maury County Commission from 1970 to 1982 and proudly represented the 64th House District in the Tennessee General Assembly from 1982 to 1996; he served as delegate to the 1980 Democratic National Convention; and

WHEREAS, he was a faithful congregant of Graymere Church of Christ and a member of the Kiwanis Club and American Legion Post 19; he served on the advisory board of directors for First Farmers and Merchants Bank and the board of trustees of Maury Regional Hospital; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he was the Grand Marshal of the Columbia Mule Day Parade in 2004 and received the George F. Hixson Fellowship Award from the Columbia Kiwanis Club and the Liberty Bell Award from the Maury County Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Anne Thompson Napier was born on March 2, 1933, to James W. Thompson, Sr., and Mildred Shannon Thompson; she graduated from Hay Long High School in 1951 and attended Martin Methodist College; and

WHEREAS, married on August 25, 1954, J.B. and Shirley Napier were the proud parents of four children, Tim (Dawn) Napier, Stan (Lesha) Napier, Steve (Lori) Napier, and Millie (Bart) Fite; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Shirley Napier became the Clerk and Master for Maury County, a position she held until her retirement in 1998; she served as president of the Tennessee State

Court Clerks Association, vice-president of the Tennessee County Officials Association, and as an officer in the Middle Tennessee Clerks Association; and

WHEREAS, by means of Senate Bill 137/House Bill 124 of the 112th General Assembly, the legislature has designated each of the parallel bridges on State Route 396 spanning Kedron Road in the City of Spring Hill in Maury County as the "J.B. Napier and Shirley Napier Memorial Bridge" as a lasting tribute to these exceptional public servants; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of J.B. Napier and Shirley Napier on the occasion of the dedication of each of the parallel bridges on State Route 396 spanning Kedron Road in the City of Spring Hill as the "J.B. Napier and Shirley Napier Memorial Bridge."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.